

Three Doors to Death

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Three Doors to Death is a collection of [Nero Wolfe mystery novellas](#) by [Rex Stout](#), published by the [Viking Press](#) in 1950 — itself collected in the omnibus volume *Five of a Kind* (Viking 1961). The book comprises three stories that first appeared in [The American Magazine](#):

- "Man Alive" (December 1947)
- "Omit Flowers" (November 1948)
- "Door to Death" (June 1949)

Publication history [[edit source](#)]

- 1950, New York: The [Viking Press](#), April 21, 1950, hardcover^[1]

In his limited-edition pamphlet, *Collecting Mystery Fiction #9, Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe Part I*, [Otto Penzler](#)

describes the [first edition](#) of *Three Doors to Death*: "Green cloth, front cover and spine printed with black; rear cover blank. Issued in a mainly reddish-orange dust wrapper."^[2]

In April 2006, *Firsts: The Book Collector's Magazine* estimated that the first edition of *Three Doors to Death* had a value of between \$300 and \$500. The estimate is for a copy in very good to fine condition in a like dustjacket.^[3]

- 1950, New York: Viking ([Mystery Guild](#)), August 1950, hardcover

The far less valuable Viking book club edition may be distinguished from the first edition in three ways:

- The dust jacket has "Book Club Edition" printed on the inside front flap, and the price is absent (first editions may be price clipped if they were given as gifts).
- Book club editions are sometimes thinner and always taller (usually a quarter of an inch) than first editions.
- Book club editions are bound in cardboard, and first editions are bound in cloth (or have at least a cloth spine).^[4]

- 1950, London: [Collins Crime Club](#), September 18, 1950, hardcover
- 1952, New York: [Dell](#) ([mapback](#) by Rafael de Soto), 1952, #626, paperback
- 1961, New York: The Viking Press, *Five of a Kind: The Third Nero Wolfe Omnibus* (with [The Rubber Band](#) and [In the Best Families](#)), July 10, 1961, hardcover
- 1966, New York: [Bantam](#) #F3154, June 1966, paperback
- 1995, New York: Bantam Crimeline [ISBN 0-553-25127-9](#) February 1995, paperback
- 2010, New York: Bantam Crimeline [ISBN 0-307-75623-8](#) June 9, 2010, [e-book](#)

References [[edit source](#)]

1. [^] Townsend, Guy M., *Rex Stout: An Annotated Primary and Secondary Bibliography* (1980, New York: Garland Publishing; [ISBN 0-8240-9479-4](#)), p. 81
2. [^] Penzler, Otto, *Collecting Mystery Fiction #9, Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe Part I* (2001, New York: The Mysterious Bookshop, limited edition of 250 copies), p. 25
3. [^] Smiley, Robin H., "Rex Stout: A Checklist of Primary First Editions." *Firsts: The Book Collector's Magazine* (Volume 16, Number 4), April 2006, p. 33
4. [^] Penzler, Otto, *Collecting Mystery Fiction #9, Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe Part I*, pp. 19–20

External links [[edit source](#)]

- *A Nero Wolfe Mystery* — "Door to Death" at **IMDb**
- *A Nero Wolfe Mystery* — "Door to Death"  at The Wolfe Pack, official site of the Nero Wolfe Society

<div>V · T · E </div>	Nero Wolfe		[hide]
Creator	Rex Stout		
Characters	Nero Wolfe · Archie Goodwin · Nero Wolfe supporting characters		
Novels	<i>Fer-de-Lance</i> (1934) · <i>The League of Frightened Men</i> (1935) · <i>The Rubber Band</i> (1936) · <i>The Red Box</i> (1937) · <i>Too Many Cooks</i> (1938) · <i>Some Buried Caesar</i> (1939) · <i>Over My Dead Body</i> (1940) · <i>Where There's a Will</i> (1940) · <i>The Silent Speaker</i> (1946) · <i>Too Many Women</i> (1947) · <i>And Be a Villain</i> (1948) · <i>The Second Confession</i> (1949) · <i>In the Best Families</i> (1950) · <i>Murder by the Book</i> (1951) · <i>Prisoner's Base</i> (1952) · <i>The Golden Spiders</i> (1953) · <i>The Black Mountain</i> (1954) · <i>Before Midnight</i> (1955) · <i>Might as Well Be Dead</i> (1956) · <i>If Death Ever Slept</i> (1957) · <i>Champagne for One</i> (1958) · <i>Plot It Yourself</i> (1959) · <i>Too Many Clients</i> (1960) · <i>The Final Deduction</i> (1961) · <i>Gambit</i> (1962) · <i>The Mother Hunt</i> (1963) · <i>A Right to Die</i> (1964) · <i>The Doorbell Rang</i> (1965) · <i>Death of a Doxy</i> (1966) · <i>The Father Hunt</i> (1968) · <i>Death of a Dude</i> (1969) · <i>Please Pass the Guilt</i> (1973) · <i>A Family Affair</i> (1975)		
Novellas and short stories	<div>"Bitter End" (1940) · "Black Orchids" (1941) · "Cordially Invited to Meet Death" (1942) · "Not Quite Dead Enough" (1942) · "Booby Trap" (1944) · "Help Wanted, Male" (1945) · "Instead of Evidence" (1946) · "Before I Die" (1947) · "Man Alive" (1947) · "Bullet for One" (1948) · "Omit Flowers" (1948) · "Door to Death" (1949) · "The Gun with Wings" (1949) · "Disguise for Murder" (1950) · "The Cop-Killer" (1951) · "The Squirt and the Monkey" (1951) · "Home to Roost" (1952) · "This Won't Kill You" (1952) · "Invitation to Murder" (1953) · "The Zero Clue" (1953) · "When a Man Murders" (1954) · "Die Like a Dog" (1954) · "The Next Witness" (1955) · "Immune to Murder" (1955) · "A Window for Death" (1956) · "Too Many Detectives" (1956) · "Christmas Party" (1957) · "Easter Parade" (1957) · "Fourth of July Picnic" (1957) · "Murder Is No Joke" (1958), expanded as "Frame-Up for Murder" (1958) · "Method Three for Murder" (1960) · "Poison à la Carte" (1960) · "The Rodeo Murder" (1960) · "Counterfeit for Murder" (1961) · "Death of a Demon" (1961) · "Kill Now—Pay Later" (1961) · "Eeny Meeny Murder Mo" (1962) · "Blood Will Tell" (1963) · "Murder Is Corny" (1964) · "Assault on a Brownstone" (1985, posthumously published early draft of "Counterfeit for Murder")</div>		
Adaptations	<div><div>Film</div><div><i>Meet Nero Wolfe</i> (1936) · <i>The League of Frightened Men</i> (1937)</div></div> <div><div>Radio</div><div><i>The Adventures of Nero Wolfe</i> (1943–44) · <i>The Amazing Nero Wolfe</i> (1945) · <i>The New Adventures of Nero Wolfe</i> (1950–51) · <i>Nero Wolfe</i> (1982)</div></div> <div><div>Television</div><div><i>Nero Wolfe</i> (1977) · <i>Nero Wolfe</i> (1981) · <i>The Golden Spiders: A Nero Wolfe Mystery</i> (2000) · <i>Nero Wolfe</i> (2001–02)</div></div>		
Novels by Robert Goldsborough	<i>Murder in E Minor</i> (1986) · <i>Death on Deadline</i> (1987) · <i>The Bloodied Ivy</i> (1988) · <i>The Last Coincidence</i> (1989) · <i>Fade to Black</i> (1990) · <i>Silver Spire</i> (1992) · <i>The Missing Chapter</i> (1994) · <i>Archie Meets Nero Wolfe</i> (2012) · <i>Murder in the Ball Park</i> (2014) · <i>Archie in the Crosshairs</i> (2015) · <i>Stop the Presses!</i> (2016) · <i>Murder, Stage Left</i> (2017) · <i>The Battered Badge</i> (2018) · <i>Death of an Art Collector</i> (2019) · <i>Archie Goes Home</i> (2020)		
Related	Black Orchid Novella Award · Nero Award · The Wolfe Pack		

Categories: [1950 short story collections](#) | [Nero Wolfe short story collections](#) | [Viking Press books](#)

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